

## “The Last Word: The In-flesh-ment of God”

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- **“And the Word became \_\_\_\_\_.” John 1:14**
  - The Christmas story according to John.
  - I Timothy 2:16—“Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.”
  - Herman Ridderbos: “To ‘become flesh’ is more than to ‘appear in the sphere of the flesh,’ that is, as Jesus of Nazareth. It is an identification that, though it is not further defined here or linked with the virgin birth, does mean that all the redemptive categories (the ‘life’ and ‘the light of humanity’) thus far attributed in the prologue to the \_\_\_\_\_ now apply with the same absoluteness and exclusiveness to the man \_\_\_\_\_ and, in his person as the possessor of that which belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ alone, completely transcend and exceed the possibilities of a \_\_\_\_\_ man.” (*The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary* 50)
    - Hence, the Baby of Bethlehem was fully \_\_\_\_\_ and fully \_\_\_\_\_.
    - And thus, Holy Scripture calls him both the “Son of \_\_\_\_\_” and the “Son of \_\_\_\_\_.”
    - It is the truth of the “incarnation”—the in—\_\_\_\_\_—ment of God.
- **“... and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14)**
  - The Greek for “dwelt” is the verb form of the word for “tabernacle”—the very word the LXX (the Gk OT) uses to describe the sanctuary or tabernacle in the wilderness.
  - “And the Word became flesh and tabernacled/pitched his tent among us and we beheld his glory.”
  - *Desire of Ages*: “Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of \_\_\_\_\_. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which ‘seeketh not her own’ has its source in the heart of God; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the \_\_\_\_\_ of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto.” (19, 20)
- **But what does the humanity of Christ mean to you?**
  - Because the Word became flesh we now know this truth about God: He is the God who is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - In our \_\_\_\_\_ some of the time.
    - By our \_\_\_\_\_ all of the time.
    - The God who to be \_\_\_\_\_ with us became \_\_\_\_\_ of us.
  - *Desire of Ages*: “Since Jesus came to dwell with us, we know that God is acquainted with our trials, and sympathizes with our griefs. Every son and daughter of Adam may understand that our Creator is the \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners. For in every doctrine of grace, every promise of joy, every deed of love, every divine attraction presented in the Saviour’s life on earth, we see ‘God with us.’” (24)
  - *Desire of Ages*: “By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan’s purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is \_\_\_\_\_ to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. . . . To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, \_\_\_\_\_ to retain His human nature. . . . God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. . . . In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our \_\_\_\_\_. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love.” (25, 26)

*“Up Close and Personal”*

Flesh, Word, Jesus of Nazareth, God, mere, God, Man, God, Man, flesh, self-sacrificing love, character, up close, personal, face, side, one, one, friend, never, forever, brother